

REMARKS

This paper is responsive to the Non-Final Office Action dated July 25, 2006. Claims 12-18 have been withdrawn by the examiner. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-11 are pending.

The Office Action asserts that claims 12-18 are directed to an independent or distinct invention. Thus, the Office Action has withdrawn claims 12-18 from consideration.

Examiner Interview

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Pham for the telephonic interview of August 31, 2006. At the interview, the claim amendments were discussed. Examiner Pham stated that the amendments would likely overcome the prior art rejections pending further searching.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action asserts regarding claim 1 that "the result of determining is still unknown, and not being used for decompressing a trie." See Office Action, page 5. Claim 1 has been amended for clarity. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action asserts that the features of claim 1 "were not described in the specification." The Office is referred to pages 19–36 of the specification which provides ample description of claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1–8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by the instant specification ("Background" section, pages 1–4). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites identifying a tag bit in a first node for indicating multiple tagging in the first node, and identifying a tag mask field attached to the first node based on the tag bit, the tag mask field including a plurality of bits and generating node information.

The Office Action asserts that the "Background" section discloses using additional bits to represent male, female and gender neutral words and contends that the bits for representing gender words is a "tag flag" or "tag bit." However, the proposed "additional bits to represent male, female and gender neutral words" merely represent male/female/gender-neutral words. None of the so-called "additional bits" relied upon by the Office Action indicates multiple tagging in a node based on the tag information field. Nor do the "additional bits" identify a tag mask field comprising a plurality of bits.

The Office Action asserts that the "Background" section discloses a "tag flag" of "1" for indicating that the word is a gender word (Office Action pages 4 and 7), and another bit indicating male or female ("0" or "1"). Hence, the Office Action contends that the gender word node would contain a "10" for "male" (i.e., the "1" indicating a gender word" and the "0" indicating the word is "male") and a "11" for "female" (i.e., the first "1" indicating a gender word" and the second "1" indicating the word is "female").

Even assuming *arguendo* that the Office Action's assertion is correct, the "Background" section still fails to teach or suggest that the "tag flag/bit" identifies a tag mask field including a plurality of bits. Rather, the first bit of "0" or "1" indicating a gender word node (equated to the "tag flag/bit" by the Office Action) does not identify a

plurality of bits (i.e., tag mask field) but is merely followed by a *single* bit "0" or "1" indicating "male" or "female."

Thus, the single bit indicating if a word is "male" or "female" is not equivalent or suggestive of the tag mask field of claim 1 (comprising a plurality of bits for generating node information) as the Office Action asserts. The "additional bit" merely indicates if a word is male or female. The "Background" Section does not teach or suggest that the "additional bits" identifies a tag mask field comprising a plurality of bits for generating node information.

In addition, the Office Action asserts that "a single bit is considered as a tag flag" and that "an additional bit for a gender word node is considered as a multi tag field." See Office Action, page 4. The Office Action's admission that the "additional bit" (singular) being the "gender word" underlines the fact that that the "gender word node" as relied upon by the Office Action is not a plurality of bits but is a *single* bit. Nor is the "additional bit" identified based on the "single bit" that the Office Action considers to be the "tag flag."

"A claim is anticipated only if each and every element is set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). In the present case, the "Background" section of the instant specification does not set forth each and every element as set forth in the claim. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted the rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn.

Claims 2-8 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the reasons set forth above for claim 1.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 1 and 9-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the instant specification ("Background" section, pages 1-4). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action presents the same arguments as presented under the section entitled "35 U.S.C. 102". As set forth above, the "Background" section of the instant specification fails to teach or suggest claims 1-8. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claims 9-11 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the reasons set forth above for claim 1.

Claims 2-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the instant specification ("Background" section, pages 1-4) in view of Knuth ("The Art of Computer Programming"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As set forth above, the "Background" section, page 1-4, of the instant specification fails to teach or suggest claims 2-8. Knuth fails to cure the deficiencies of the "Background" section, page 1-4.

The Office Action asserts that Knuth discloses a nodes includes KEY, LLINK/RLINK, and LTAG/RTAG. The Office Action asserts that LTAG is a "tag information field ... that tells whether or not LLINK pointing to a particular node." See Office Action, page 9. However, even assuming LTAG is a "tag information field" as the Office Action asserts, Knuth still fails to teach or suggest the features of claim 1. Nor does the Office Action assert that Knuth does.

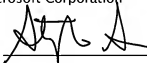
Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 2-8 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendment and remarks it is submitted that the claims are patentably distinct over the prior art and that all the rejections to the claims have been overcome. Reconsideration and reexamination of the above Application is requested. Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully requests that the pending claims be allowed, and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby request any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee that is not covered by an enclosed check please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-0463.

Respectfully submitted,
Microsoft Corporation

By: 

Date: September 1, 2006

Microsoft Corporation
One Microsoft Way
Redmond, WA 98052-6399

Stephen Siu, Reg. No.: 48,303
Attorney for Applicants
Direct telephone (425) 704-0669

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